

RI Environmental Monitoring Collaborative Meeting Minutes

8 February 2006

Coastal Institute, Narragansett Bay Campus

Present: *P. August, H. Ward, S. Kiernan, C. Young, N. Rubinstein, J. King, D. Gregg, A. Colt, J. Mariscal, C. LaBash, B. Blair, M. Cole, D. Pryor, C. Deacutis, J. Stachelhaus*

Meeting called to order at 9:00 AM

1. August reviewed RIEMC activities since the last meeting. These consist of sending forward to the Coordination Team (CT) monitoring recommendations that received favorable review by the RI Bays, Rivers, and Watersheds Science Advisory Committee¹. Upon request by the CT these were ranked in importance by the RIEMC². The CT performed its own ranking and their results are included in a one-page overview of the RIEMC prepared for the CT³.
2. A brief description of staff requirements for the RIEMC was written and sent forward to the CT at their request.
3. The RIEMC was asked to provide a short update of its activities to the authors of the Senate Bill creating the RIEMC. August will create a draft letter and circulate among the RIEMC for review.
4. Harold Ward, Sue Kiernan, and Juan Mariscal discussed needs for additional USGS streamflow gauging stations and where new stations might be placed. There are three major classes of need for streamflow monitoring in RI: assessment of freshwater inputs to Narragansett Bay, general water supply management, and monitoring potential impacts to riparian ecosystems from possible new groundwater withdrawal in the Big River area to meet Kent County water supply needs. It appears that with the addition of 10 new gauging stations, most of the data needs can be met. Collaborative members had many questions and comments. Kiernan, Ward, and Mariscal are in close communication and will provide an update to the RIEMC listserv.
5. Sue Kiernan reviewed the criteria and 7 year schedule for the DEM rotating basin plan. Discussion followed. Kiernan will provide shortly a brief written summary of the basin sampling schedule which is intended to assess all rivers and streams on a 5-year cycle.
6. If anyone is interested in leading the development of a proposal for the EPA conference grant RFP, contact August.
7. DEM will call a meeting of parties active in Bay monitoring to review this summer's plans. The purpose is to make sure nothing is falling in the cracks and that resources are efficiently used. The RIEMC will be invited to participate in the meeting.
8. Upcoming monitoring projects and meetings were announced and reviewed. These include:
 - a. Eelgrass mapping for 2006
 - b. MapCoast mapping for 2006
 - c. Landuse data update
 - d. RI Natural History Survey Meeting
 - e. MapCoast/BayMap meeting
9. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 PM

¹ <http://www.ci.uri.edu/Projects/RI-Monitoring/Docs/Response%20to%20SAC%20Review.pdf>

² http://www.ci.uri.edu/Projects/RI-Monitoring/Docs/FY2007_Priorities.pdf

³ http://www.ci.uri.edu/Projects/RI-Monitoring/Docs/RIEMC_1pager.pdf